

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process and system for aseptic processing of a food containing solid particles, the process including the steps of: (a) providing a particulate food processing system including a first chamber and a second chamber; (b) creating a condition of sterility in the second chamber; (c) heating the food particles in the first chamber in a bulk sterilization step, at a temperature above the ambient temperature, so as to produce sterilized food particles; (d) transferring the sterilized food particles to the second chamber, and (e) flash cooling the sterilized food particles in the second chamber while maintaining the condition of sterility in the second chamber.